

NID original ONE and OCI ; relationship
to OCI "Handbook"

19 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ABERN

SUBJECT: NID

1. I have gone over your draft of 18 February, and, as I indicated by telephone, it seems to me no amount of staff study will find a neat answer to the basic question.

2. We do not know how useful the Senior Representatives would find the NID because they haven't been getting it. To my mind, what the SR's get now is selected and encourages provincialism. The NID would be the one publication which would help them maintain some perspective. This business of whether or not an SR briefs an Ambassador is of no importance in the context of the decision to be taken.

3. I attach background notes on the NID. I suggest that such historical material as you decide to use in your final draft be put in as appendix and not be melded with any discussion of what is, in essence, a simple policy issue.

4. The above is gratuitous advice. I know you will have sense enough to treat it accordingly.

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PROBLEM

To determine to which CIA missions abroad, if any, the National Intelligence Digest (NID) shall be sent.

BACKGROUND

1. **Nature of the NID**

The NID is primarily a compilation of abstracts of pertinent national and current intelligence, together with some supporting basic data.

2. **Origin of the Project**

The first edition of the NID was prepared at the direction of President Truman, to serve as part of an NSC project to brief President Eisenhower.

3. **Revisions to Date**

A partial revision was distributed in December 1952, a complete revision in July 1953, and another partial revision in December 1953. Currently a major revision is in progress pursuant to DD/I decision to keep the NID current by monthly review (see TAB "A").

4. **Domestic Distribution**

A total of sixty-five copies of the NID are distributed to the NSC, the NSC Policy Planning Staff, members of the IAC, and internally in CIA.

5. **Distribution Abroad**

But for one exception, the NID has not been distributed abroad. The exception occurred when the then DD/I, in March 1953, sent one copy of the November 1952 revision to General Truscott for the use of Ambassador Bohlen, then on his way to Moscow.

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6. Responsibility for Content

The NID is an ONE responsibility. ONE prepares it with the assistance of other offices, primarily OOI. Except for the material quoted or abstracted from NIE's, CIA has full responsibility for the content of the NID.

7. Reader Response

Insofar as ONE has been able to ascertain informally, the NID satisfies a genuine need. No other publication contains so much intelligence in such a handy form. The OOI Handbook series complements but does not duplicate the NID.

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